



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS  
Washington, D.C. 20231  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/507,062	02/18/2000	John Peter Veschi		8896

7590

04/11/2003

John Veschi  
8468 Oak Knoll Street  
Fogelsville, CA 18051

EXAMINER

OUELLETTE, JONATHAN P

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3629

DATE MAILED: 04/11/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

09/507,062

Applicant(s)

VESCHI, JOHN PETER

Examiner

Jonathan Ouellette

Art Unit

3629

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10/25/02.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,8-10,21-32 and 34-36 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) 1,2,8-10,21-32 and 34-36 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120**

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). 6
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Response to Amendment*

1. Claims 3-7, and 11-20 have been cancelled and Claims 21-36 have been added; therefore, Claims 1, 2, 8-10, and 21-36 are pending in application 09/507,062.

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.
3. Claims 1-2, 23-29, 32, and 34-36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sloo, in view of Berstis et al. (EP 1061465 A2).
4. As per independents Claims 1 and 23, Sloo discloses a method of resolving a dispute (occurring in substantially real-time), comprising: at least one plurality of parties to the dispute providing, via on-line connection, an input relating to the dispute; information related to resolution of the dispute being provided, via the on-line connection, to at least one of the parties; and providing at least a portion of the input in a publicly accessible on-line form and allowing at least some people who access the on-line form to interact therewith. (Abstract, Figs.1-9, C1 L53-67, C2 L1-20, C2 L53-67, C3 L1-39, C5 L3-20, C7 L28-67, C8 L1-49, C9 L11-56, C12 L15-24, C21 L22-56, C22 L1-20).

5. Sloo fails to expressly disclose wherein the step of allowing interaction includes allowing a question of a party in the dispute.
6. However, Sloo does teach allowing general users the ability to post their support or opposition to the judgment and encouraging responses (C9 L50-55).
7. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have included wherein the step of allowing interaction includes allowing a question of a party in the dispute in the system disclosed by Sloo, for the advantage of providing a method of interactively settling disputes with the ability to create a entertaining medium by soliciting opinions and interactive inputs from additional system users.
8. Sloo also fails to disclose wherein the publicly accessible on-line form includes a dispute related advertising field including an advertisement that is selected by a computer based system.
9. Berstis teaches parsing keywords from a data stream and correlating it with a keyword-advertisement database in order to provide adaptive and targeted advertising (Abstract, Fig.4).
10. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have included wherein the publicly accessible on-line form includes a dispute related advertising field including an advertisement that is selected by a computer based system in the system disclosed by Sloo, for the advantage of providing a method of interactively settling disputes with the ability to create a additional sources of income by providing user customized advertising.

11. As per Claim 2, Sloo and Berstis disclose at least one of the parties providing payment information for use in obtaining a fee associated with the service of providing the resolution related information (Sloo: Abstract, Figs.1-9, C1 L53-67, C2 L1-20, C2 L53-67, C3 L1-39, C5 L3-20, C7 L28-67, C8 L1-49, C9 L11-56, C12 L15-24, C21 L22-56, C22 L1-20).
12. As per Claim 24, Sloo and Berstis disclose wherein the other person is another party to the dispute (Sloo: Abstract, Figs.1-9, C1 L53-67, C2 L1-20, C2 L53-67, C3 L1-39, C5 L3-20, C7 L28-67, C8 L1-49, C9 L11-56, C12 L15-24, C21 L22-56, C22 L1-20).
13. As per Claim 25, Sloo and Berstis disclose wherein the other person is a third party other than one of the parties to the dispute (Sloo: Abstract, Figs.1-9, C1 L53-67, C2 L1-20, C2 L53-67, C3 L1-39, C5 L3-20, C7 L28-67, C8 L1-49, C9 L11-56, C12 L15-24, C21 L22-56, C22 L1-20).
14. As per Claim 26, Sloo and Berstis disclose enabling another third party to view the dispute without enabling the other third party to interact with the parties (Sloo: Abstract, Figs.1-9, C1 L53-67, C2 L1-20, C2 L53-67, C3 L1-39, C5 L3-20, C7 L28-67, C8 L1-49, C9 L11-56, C12 L15-24, C21 L22-56, C22 L1-20).
15. As per Claim 27, Sloo and Berstis disclose wherein the interaction comprises a question directed to the at least one of the parties (Sloo: Abstract, Figs.1-9, C1 L53-67, C2 L1-20, C2 L53-67, C3 L1-39, C5 L3-20, C7 L28-67, C8 L1-49, C9 L11-56, C12 L15-24, C21 L22-56, C22 L1-20). 23
16. As per Claim 28, Sloo and Berstis disclose wherein the interaction comprises a vote on which party should prevail (Sloo: Abstract, Figs.1-9, C1 L53-67, C2 L1-20, C2 L53-67,

Art Unit: 3629

C3 L1-39, C5 L3-20, C7 L28-67, C8 L1-49, C9 L11-56, C12 L15-24, C21 L22-56, C22 L1-20).

17. As per Claim 29, Sloo and Berstis disclose wherein the input is in written form (Sloo: Abstract, Figs.1-9, C1 L53-67, C2 L1-20, C2 L53-67, C3 L1-39, C5 L3-20, C7 L28-67, C8 L1-49, C9 L11-56, C12 L15-24, C21 L22-56, C22 L1-20).
18. As per Claim 32, Sloo and Berstis disclose providing, via the on-line connection, information related to resolution of the dispute to at least one of the parties (Sloo: Abstract, Figs.1-9, C1 L53-67, C2 L1-20, C2 L53-67, C3 L1-39, C5 L3-20, C7 L28-67, C8 L1-49, C9 L11-56, C12 L15-24, C21 L22-56, C22 L1-20).
19. As per Claim 34, Sloo and Berstis disclose wherein a computer-based system manages the interaction between the parties (Sloo: Abstract, Figs.1-9, C1 L53-67, C2 L1-20, C2 L53-67, C3 L1-39, C5 L3-20, C7 L28-67, C8 L1-49, C9 L11-56, C12 L15-24, C21 L22-56, C22 L1-20).
20. As per Claim 35, Sloo and Berstis disclose wherein the input is related to real-life facts (Sloo: Abstract, Figs.1-9, C1 L53-67, C2 L1-20, C2 L53-67, C3 L1-39, C5 L3-20, C7 L28-67, C8 L1-49, C9 L11-56, C12 L15-24, C21 L22-56, C22 L1-20).
21. As per Claim 36, Sloo and Berstis fail to expressly disclose wherein the dispute related advertising field includes an advertisement related to a fact of the dispute.
22. However, as explained above for independent claims 1 and 23, Berstis teaches parsing keywords from a data stream and correlating it with a keyword-advertisement database in order to provide adaptive and targeted advertising (Abstract, Fig.4) – and it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to

include advertisements in the keyword-advertisement database that related to dispute issues, in order to offer the users advertisements that were related and helpful in regard to their dispute problems.

23. Claims 8-10, 21-22, and 30-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sloo, in view of Siefert (US 5,904,485).
24. As per independent Claim 9, Sloo discloses a method of resolving a dispute, comprising: at least one of a plurality of parties to the dispute providing, via an on-line connection, an input relating to the dispute; information related to the resolution of the dispute be provided, via the on-line connection, to at least one of the parties; providing at least a portion of the input in a publicly accessible on-line form (Abstract, Figs.1-9, C1 L53-67, C2 L1-20, C2 L53-67, C3 L1-39, C5 L3-20, C7 L28-67, C8 L1-49, C9 L11-56, C12 L15-24, C21 L22-56, C22 L1-20).
25. Sloo fails to expressly disclose allowing at least some people who access the on-line form to interact therewith based on an assessment of at least one of the person's knowledge of the law and the person's knowledge of the facts, wherein the determination step includes assessing the person's knowledge by providing the person a set of one or more questions and evaluating the person's responses to the questions, and wherein the person is provided another set of questions from a larger set of questions if the person does not answer a predetermined number of the questions correctly
26. However, Sloo does teach pre-qualifying the judge and jurors (C8 L5-18), and Siefert further teaches assessing the knowledge level of a user, providing education material to

the user, and re-assessing the knowledge level of the user (Abstract, C7 L18-25, C9 L58-60, C15 L51-67, C16 L1-19, C19 L32-35, C20 L1-15, Fig.2-3).

27. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have included assessing the person's knowledge by providing the person a set of one or more questions and evaluating the person's responses to the questions in the system disclosed by Sloo, for the advantage of providing a method of interactively settling disputes with the help of people who have knowledge to settle the dispute, the knowledge determined through a pre-qualifying set of questions.

28. As per Claim 10, Sloo and Siefert disclose providing educational information to the person prior to providing another set of questions (Siefert: Abstract, C7 L18-25, C9 L58-60, C15 L51-67, C16 L1-19, C19 L32-35, C20 L1-15, Fig.2-3).

29. As per Claim 8, Sloo and Siefert disclose determining which people that access the online form are permitted to interact therewith based on an assessment of at least one of the person's knowledge of the law and the person's knowledge of the facts, wherein the determining step includes assessing the person's knowledge by providing the person a set of one or more questions and evaluating the person's responses to the questions (See response to independent Claim 9).

30. As per Claim 21 and 30, Sloo and Siefert disclose wherein the determining step is based on an assessment of the person's knowledge of the law (See response to independent Claim 9).



Art Unit: 3629

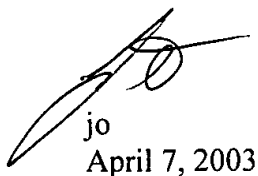
31. As per Claim 22 and 31, Sloo and Siefert disclose wherein the determining step is based on an assessment of the person's knowledge of the facts (See response to independent Claim 9).

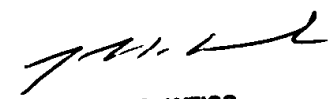
***Response to Arguments***

32. Applicant's arguments with respect to Claims 1, 2, 8-10, and 21-36 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

***Conclusion***

33. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jonathan Ouellette whose telephone number is (703) 605-0662. The examiner can normally be reached between Monday and Thursday, 8am - 5:00pm.
34. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Weiss can be reached on (703) 308-2702. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 305-7687 for regular communications and (703) 305-3597 for After Final communications.
35. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 306-5484.

  
jo  
April 7, 2003

  
JOHN G. WEISS  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600